

Message Text

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ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 USIA-06 SY-05 DHA-02 A-01 OPR-02
SS-15 NSC-05 SP-02 L-03 H-01 CIAE-00 INR-07
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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PFOR, PINS, MI
SUBJECT: STATUS REPORT ON DETAINED USIS EMPLOYEE, JUSTIN FUNSANI

REF: A. LILONGWE 0391 B. LILONGWE 0390

1. ON MARCH 18 IN ZOMBA I CALLED ON POLICE COMMISSIONER KAMWANA AS SUGGESTED BY PRESIDENT BANDA (REF TEL A). HE RECEIVED ME IN A RELAXED, FRIENDLY MANNER AND WAS SURPRISINGLY FORTHCOMING AND FRANK IN DISCUSSING FUNSANI'S SITUATION. HE SAID INVESTIGATION SO FAR HAD DISCLOSED NOTHING SUBVERSIVE OR DEROGATORY IN FUNSANI'S BACKGROUND, NO PREVIOUS POLICE RECORD OF ANY KIND, AND THAT ONLY CHECK REMAINING IS TO MAKE SURE HE HAD NO CONNECTIONS, DIRECT OR INDIRECT, WITH DISSIDENT FORMER MINISTER CHIUME WHO NOW LIVES IN DAR ES SALAA. KAMWANA SAID THE SPECIFIC CHARGE ON WHICH FUNSANI IS DETAINED IS FOR CORRESPONDING WITH "AN ENEMY OF MALAWI" WHO LIVES IN ZOMBIE. THIS PERSON WROTE TO FUNSANI ASKING QUESTIONS ABOUT THE PROGRESS OF THE WENELA NEGOTIATIONS AND FUNSANI REPLIED TO HIM. THE WENELA NEGOTIATIONS HAVE BEEN A VERY DELICATE AND CLOSELY HELD MATTER, KAMWANA OBSERVED, AND THEREFORE SUSPICION FELL ON FUNSANI AND HIS ACTION REQUIRED INVESTIGATION.

2. I MADE STRONG POSITIVE PITCH FOR FUNSANI, STRESSED HIS YOUTH,

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OUR NEED FOR HIS SERVICES, SITUATION OF HIS PARENTS, THE NEED TO STRAIGHTEN OUT LIBRARY ACCOUNTS AND EMPHASIZED OUR CONCERN THAT NOTHING HE MIGHT HAVE DONE AT OUR INSTRUCTION OR IN THE NORMAL COURSE OF DOING HIS JOB COULD HAVE CONTRIBUTED TO FUNSANI'S DIFFICULTY. KAMWANA ANSWERED FIRMLY AND WITHOUT HESITATION THAT FUNSANI'S WORK WAS IN NO WAY INVOLVED; THAT THE ILLUSTRATIVE EXAMPLES I GAVE HIM HAD NEVER COME TO POLICE ATTENTION BEFORE.

HE INDICATED THAT CASE IN FEW WEEKS WOULD BE PRESENTED TO PRESIDENT BANDA AND IF NOTHING ELSE DEROGATORY TURNS UP IN THE CONTINUING POLICE INVESTIGATION, HE THINKS IT LIKELY BANDA WILL LEAVE THE PUNISHMENT TO THE COMMISSIONER'S DISCRETION. IN WHICH CASE HE MENTIONED IT MIGHT BE RELEASE WITH WARNING OR RELEASE WITH REQUIREMENT TO REPORT TO POLICE REGULARLY FOR A FEW MONTHS. HOWEVER, THERE WOULD BE NO OBJECTION TO OUR CONTINUING HIS EMPLOYMENT IF HE IS RELEASED IN THIS MANNER.

3. WITH REGARD TO THE PAO SEEING FUNSANI FOR PURPOSE OF REGULARIZING LIBRARY ECCOUNTS AND TO OBTAIN POWER OF ATTORNEY SO HIS ACCUMULATED PAY, OR PART OF IT, MIGHT BE SENT TO HIS PARENTS, HE WAS COMPLETELY COOPERATIVE AND SAID WOULD ARRANGE FOR IT THIS WEEK AT TIME WE WISH.

4. COMMENT: KAMWANA HAS REPUTATION OF BEING HONEST, STRAIGHT-FORWARD MAN WHO DOES HIS BEST TO BE FAIR UNDER DIFFICULT CIRCUMSTANCES. HIS EDUCATIONAL BACKGROUND IS LIMITED AND WE HAVE SEEN IN ANOTHER CASE (REFTEL B) THAT HE IS CAPABLE OF MAKING WILD AND UNJUST ACCUSATIONS IF HE FEELS HIMSELF CORNERED OR IF NECESSARY TO COVER HIMSELF IN ANY MATTER WHICH IS LIKELY TO BE REFERRED TO THE PRESIDENT. HOWEVER, HIS ATTITUDE AND REACTIONS ON THIS OCCASION WERE SUCH THAT FOR FIRST TIME I HAVE SOME HOPE THAT WE MAY GET FUNSANI BACK WITH US IN SOME ACCEPTABLE TIME FRAME.
STEVENSON

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Sent Date: 21-Mar-1977 12:00:00 am
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Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
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